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NEWS RELEASE

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PSC COMMISSIONER COKER APPOINTED TO NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION RELAY SERVICE PANEL *Group advises on services for deaf and hearing-impaired*

FRANKFORT, Ky. (Nov. xx, 2005) – Commissioner Greg Coker of the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) has been appointed to represent state utility regulators on a panel that advises federal regulators on the funding of telecommunication services for the deaf and hearing-impaired.

Coker was named to the Telecommunication Relay Service (TRS) Advisory Council by the National Associations of Regulatory Utility Commissioners. NARUC's members include utility regulators from all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The TRS Advisory Council was created by the Federal Communications Commission to provide input on funding matters relating to TRS.

In appointing Coker, NARUC noted that he is a former member of the advisory board for the Kentucky School for the Deaf and has a long-standing interest in services for the deaf and hearing-impaired.

Coker said he will use his position on the council to continue his advocacy efforts.

"Telephone and information services should not present a barrier for those who are deaf or hard of hearing," Coker said. "I intend to use my position on this advisory council to do all I can to make it easier for the hearing-impaired to have full access to the telecommunications network which is everyone's link to the entire globe."

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Kentucky is home to about 400,000 of the 28 million Americans who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins, executive director of the Kentucky Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, said Coker's appointment represents an opportunity for Kentucky.

"Greg's involvement will help bring new technologies home to deaf and hard-of-hearing Kentuckians," she said. "I am delighted to have Greg working on our behalf at the national level."

Governor Ernie Fletcher appointed Coker to the PSC on Aug. 16, 2004. His term ends June 30, 2008. Before joining the PSC, Coker was an executive in the telecommunications industry. He has experience in governmental affairs at both the state and federal governmental level.

The PSC is an agency within the Environmental and Public Protection Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,500 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and has approximately 110 employees.

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